

"the packet"

The newsletter of V.A.D.C.G.

The Vancouver Amateur Digital Communications Group

Issue 6 December 1981

CONTENTS

- 2 TNC Module TIP-TTC
- 5 "Wish List"
- 6 TNC Module LIP-TT
- 14 Mailing List note
- 15 Network Architecture...
- 21 Program Ordering Info.
- 21 TNC Parts Kit
- 21 Radio Modem
- 22 Order Form

Vancouver Amateur Digital Communications Group

818 Rondeau Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada V3J5Z3

TITLE 'VADCG TNC - MODULE TIP-TTC (LAST REVISED 1500 31-AUG-81)'
 .. VADCG TERMINAL NODE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM - MODULE TIP-TTC
 .. BY DOUG LOCKHART, VE7APU MAY, 1980
 ..
 .. LAST CHANGED: JULY 13, 1981

TERMINAL INTERFACE PROGRAM
 THIS PROGRAM IS WRITTEN TO RUN IN THE VADCG TERMINAL NODE CONTROLLER. IT
 INTERFACES WITH A NODE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM RUNNING AT ADDRESS 0 IN
 MEMORY. THIS VERSION IS WRITTEN TO USE THE 8250 PROGRAMMABLE UART
 TO COMMUNICATE WITH A COMPUTER.
 THE BASIC FEATURES OF THIS TIP ARE:
 NO ECHO OF DATA TO DIGITAL EQUIPMENT
 AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION OF DATA IN BUFFER AFTER DELAY
 AUTOMATIC PACKET GENERATION IF DATA IS RECEIVED WITHOUT LF.
 CTS FLOW CONTROL FROM DIGITAL EQUIPMENT TO TIP
 WHEN DSR IS HIGH, CONNECTIONS ARE ALLOWED. WHEN IT FALLS, A
 DISCONNECT IS DONE. DTR IS SET HIGH IF CONNECTED, LOW IF NOT
 TRANSMIT INTERRUPT CODE HAS BEEN RE-WRITTEN AND INCLUDED
 IN THE DISPATCHER AT MAINLINE LEVEL TO ASSURE CORRECT
 SYNCHRONIZING OF THE HOST. WHEN CONNECTED, EACH TIME THE
 CTS LINE RISES, THE TIP MAY SEND 1 BYTE BUT MUST WAIT
 TILL IT FALLS BEFORE RE-ARMING.

MACLIB LIB85 ; INCLUDE EXTRA 8085 INSTRUCTION SET

INCTB
 MACRO 20
 IF NOT NUL ?D
 MVI A,?D
 RST
 ENDM

INCLB
 MACRO 20
 IF NOT NUL ?D
 MVI A,?D
 ENDF
 RST
 ENDM

RAM CONSTANT - CHANGE FOR DIFFERENT RAM LOCATION
 LORAM EQU 1000H ; START OF RAM STORAGE

NON-ZERO STATUS MEANS LINE BUFFER ADDRESS IS IN HL REG.
 ZERO STATUS MEANS NO BUFFER IS READY

NEXTIN
 MACRO
 RST
 ENDM

8255 PARALLEL I/O EQUATES

PORTA EQU 8 ; PORT A INPUT AND OUTPUT
 PORTB EQU 9 ; PORT B INPUT AND OUTPUT
 PORTC EQU 0AH ; PORT C INPUT AND OUTPUT
 PORTC EQU 0BH ; CONTROL PORT OUTPUT ONLY

BAUD RATE EQUATES
 BAUD384 EQU 4
 BAUD192 EQU 8
 BAUD96 EQU 16
 BAUD48 EQU 32
 BAUD24 EQU 64
 BAUD12 EQU 128
 BAUD600 EQU 256
 BAUD300 EQU 512

BAUD150 EQU 1024 ; DIVISOR FOR 150 BAUD
 BAUD134 EQU 1142 ; DIVISOR FOR 134.5 BAUD
 BAUD110 EQU 1395 ; DIVISOR FOR 110 BAUD
 BAUD75 EQU 2048 ; DIVISOR FOR 75 BAUD
 BAUD50 EQU 3072 ; DIVISOR FOR 50 BAUD

8250 SERIAL I/O EQUATES

REGISTER EQUATES
 RBR EQU 0
 THR EQU 0
 IER EQU 1
 IIR EQU 1
 LCR EQU 2
 MCR EQU 3
 LSR EQU 4
 MSR EQU 5
 DLL EQU 6
 DLM EQU 7

INTERRUPT ENABLE EQUATES

ERBFI EQU 1 ; ENABLE RECEIVED DATA AVAILABLE INTERRUPT
 ERBFI EQU 2 ; ENABLE TRANSMITTER HOLDING REGISTER EMPTY
 ELSI EQU 4 ; ENABLE RECEIVER LINE STATUS INTERRUPT
 EDSSI EQU 8 ; ENABLE MODEM STATUS INTERRUPT

INTERRUPT IDENTIFICATION EQUATES

IPEND EQU 1 ; '0' IF INTERRUPT PENDING
 IID0 EQU 2 ; INTERRUPT IDENTIFICATION BIT 0
 IID1 EQU 4 ; INTERRUPT IDENTIFICATION BIT 1

LINE CONTROL EQUATES

WLS0 EQU 1 ; WORD LENGTH SELECT BIT 0
 WLS1 EQU 2 ; WORD LENGTH SELECT BIT 1
 STB EQU 4 ; STOP BIT SELECT
 PEN EQU 8 ; PARITY ENABLE
 EPS EQU 10H ; EVEN PARITY SELECT
 SPY EQU 20H ; STICK PARITY
 SBKR EQU 40H ; SET BREAK
 DLAB EQU 80H ; DRIVER LATCH ACCESS BIT

MODEM CONTROL EQUATES

DTR EQU 1 ; DATA TERMINAL READY
 RTS EQU 2 ; REQUEST TO SEND
 OUT1 EQU 4 ; OUT1 LINE ON 8250
 OUT2 EQU 8 ; OUT2 LINE ON 8250
 LOOP EQU 10H ; MODEM LOOP CONTROL BIT

LINE STATUS EQUATES

DR EQU 1 ; DATA READY
 OE EQU 2 ; OVERRUN ERROR
 PE EQU 4 ; PARITY ERROR
 FE EQU 8 ; FRAMING ERROR
 BT EQU 10H ; BREAK INTERRUPT
 THRE EQU 20H ; TRANSMITTER HOLDING REGISTER EMPTY
 TSRE EQU 40H ; TRANSMITTER SHIFT REGISTER EMPTY

STATUS EQUATES

MODEM EQU 1
 DCTS EQU 2
 DDSR EQU 4
 TERT EQU 8
 DRLSD EQU 10H
 CTS EQU 20H
 DSR EQU 40H
 RI EQU 80H
 RLSD EQU 17H
 RIND EQU 17H

REQUEST INITIALIZATION MODE CONTROL BYTE

```

CHARACTER EQUATES FOR STANDARD EQUIPMENT
MOD15 EQU ; FOR MODEL 15 BAUDOT TTY
ASR33 EQU ; FOR MODEL ASR33 TTY
WLS1+PEN+STB EQU ; FOR HORST'S SYSTEM
WLS1+WLSO EQU ; FOR BOB'S TERMINAL
WLS1+PEN+EPS EQU ; FOR RICHARD'S TERMINAL
WLS1+PEN+STB EQU ; FOR APPLE COMPUTER
APPLE EQU ; MASK SET ENABLE BIT
MSE EQU 08H ; MASK SET ENABLE BIT

COMMON COMMUNICATIONS AREA
CIRCULAR TERMINAL BUFFER VARIABLES
CCA EQU ; ADDRESS OF BEGINNING OF COMMON COMMUNICATIONS AREA
CTBIE EQU ; CURRENT TERMINAL BUFFER INPUT ENTRY
OTBIE EQU ; OLDEST TERMINAL BUFFER INPUT ENTRY
TBIP EQU ; OLDEST TERMINAL BUFFER INPUT ENTRY
TBOP EQU ; TERMINAL BUFFER INPUT POINTER
LTBOE EQU ; TERMINAL BUFFER OUTPUT POINTER
CTBOE EQU ; LAST TERMINAL BUFFER OUTPUT ENTRY
CCA+0CH EQU ; CURRENT TERMINAL BUFFER OUTPUT ENTRY
CCA+0EH EQU ; CURRENT TERMINAL BUFFER OUTPUT ENTRY

CIRCULAR LINE BUFFER VARIABLES
LBPE EQU ; LINE BUFFER PROCESSING ENTRY
CLBE EQU ; CURRENT LINE BUFFER ENTRY ADDRESS
OLBE EQU ; OLDEST LINE BUFFER ENTRY
LBIP EQU ; LINE BUFFER INPUT POINTER
LBOP EQU ; LINE BUFFER OUTPUT POINTER

MISCELLANEOUS
STAT1 EQU ; MAINLINE STATUS BYTE
TBOFLO EQU ; TERMINAL BUFFER OVERFLOW STATUS
BUFCOUNT EQU ; CURRENT INPUT BUFFER COUNT
OUTCOUNT EQU ; CURRENT BUFFER OUTPUT BYTES REMAINING
WAIT EQU ; CHARACTER DELAY VALUE
XMTSYNC EQU ; CCA+070H ; SYNC AND UNDERWAY FLAG
TXUND EQU ; TIP TRANSMIT UNDERWAY
TXSYNC EQU ; TIP MAY TRANSMIT 1 CHARACTER
CR EQU ; ASCII CARRIAGE RETURN
LF EQU ; ASCII LINE FEED
MODE CONNECTED EQU ; MODE OF OPERATION
DISCONNECTING EQU ; 80H
CONNECTING EQU ; 40H
ACCEPTCON EQU ; 20H ; ACCEPT CONNECT REQUEST BIT
TRUE EQU OFFH ; FOR IF CONDITION TESTS
FALSE EQU 0 ; FOR IF CONDITION TESTS
VALUES CHANGE FOR EVERY CONFIGURATION
HORST EQU ; CURRENT CHARACTER FORMAT
BAUD12 EQU ; CURRENT BAUD RATE
CTSFLOW EQU ; IF FLOW CONTROL FROM DIGITAL EQUIPMENT TO TIP
; USING THE CLEAR TO SEND EIA LINE IS IMPLEMENTED. THE
; DIGITAL EQUIPMENT SHOULD STOP SENDING DATA WHEN CTC DROPS.
; MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE WITH XONFLOW. (ALWAYS TRUE AT PRESENT)

```

```

XONFLOW EQU FALSE ; FOR FLOW CONTROL FROM DIGITAL EQUIPMENT TO TIP
; USING XON-XOFF PROTOCOL. THE DIGITAL EQUIPMENT SHOULD
; STOP SENDING DATA UPON RECEIVING CONTROL-S (DC3) AND
; RESUME SENDING UPON RECEIVING CONTROL-Q (DC1).
; MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE WITH CTSFLOW. (NOT IMPLEMENTED YET)

CUSHION EQU 10 ; THE NUMBER OF BYTES THAT MAY STILL BE SENT AFTER
; FLOW CONTROL ACTS TO STOP TRANSFER OF DATA FROM THE
; DIGITAL EQUIPMENT TO THE TIP. NOTE THAT SOME EQUIPMENT
; ONLY BREAKS AT END OF LINE.

ORG 0C00H ; WHERE THIS PROGRAM'S EPROM STARTS

PAGE JUMP TABLE
JMP TIPINIT ; INITIALIZATION ENTRY POINT CALLED BY LIP
JMP RST55 ; INTERRUPT FROM 8250
JMP $ ; UNUSED INTERRUPT ENTRY POINT
JMP DISPATCH ; TO DISPATCHER ROUTINE
JMP 12RMD ;VE3PKT ; CONNECTION BUFFER
RIMBUF DB ; THIS NODES TERMINAL NUMBER
TERMINO DB 0B9H

TIPINIT: ; SET BAUD RATE IN SERIAL PORT
MVI A,DLAB
OUT LCR
MVI A,LOW BAUDRAT
OUT DLL
MVI A,HIGH BAUDRAT
OUT DLM
; BAUD RATE DIVISOR LSB
; BAUD RATE DIVISOR MSB

; DEFINE CHARACTER FORMAT OF SERIAL DATA
MVI A,FORMAT
OUT LCR ; UPDATE LINE CONTROL REGISTER

; UNMASK INTERRUPTS FROM SERIAL INTERFACE
RIM ; GET CURRENT INTERRUPT MASK IN A
ANI 00000110B ; RESET RST5.5 MASK BIT
ORI MSE ; SET MASK SET ENABLE BIT
SIM ; ENABLE RST5.5 INTERRUPTS

; CLEAR OUT RECEIVE BUFFER REGISTER
IN RBR

; ENABLE RECEIVED DATA AVAILABLE AND MODEM INTERRUPTS
MVI A,ERBFI+EDSSI
OUT IER ; UPDATE INTERRUPT ENABLE REGISTER

; BRING UP RLSD AND CLEAR TO SEND FOR TERMINAL
; RTS = CTS, OUT1 = RLSD
MVI A,OUT1+RTS
OUT MCR ; UPDATE MODEM CONTROL REGISTER

; RETURN TO LIP FOR COMPLETION OF INITIALIZATION
RET PAGE
PUSH PSW
PUSH H
PUSH D
PUSH B
IN IN
IIR
IIR1
RXINT
J7
ORA
JNZ
; GET INTERRUPT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION
; IS IT RECEIVED DATA AVAILABLE INTERRUPT?
; YES, GO TO RECEIVE INTERRUPT ROUTINE
; MODEM INTERRUPT?
; UNKNOWN INTERRUPT. RETURN
; MODEM INTERRUPT. SEE IF CONNECT STATUS CHANGE (VIA DSR)
; OR IF DATA SYNCHRONIZATION (VIA CTS)

```



```

IN      MOV      : GET MODEM STATUS
MOV     : SAVE IT
ANI     : DELTA DSR?
JZ      : NO. HOW ABOUT DELTA CTS?
MOV     : YES. GET THE DSR STATE
ANI     : ISOLATE BIT
LDA     : PICK UP LINK STATUS BIT
JZ      : DSR LOW. FORCE A DISCONNECT
STA     : ACCEPT. HIGH. ALLOW CONNECTIONS
JMP     : TELL THE LIP
MSINT1: JMP      : CLEAR THE ACCEPT CONNECTION BIT
MSINT2: JMP      : FORCE A DISCONNECT
MOV     : GET STATUS AGAIN
JZ      : IS IT CTS CHANGE?
ANI     : NO. EXIT
JZ      : GET NEW CTS STATUS
MOV     : NOW DOWN. DISPATCH
JZ      : NOW UP. SET THE SYNC BIT
LDA     : TXSYNC. TO ENABLE 1 BYTE TO HOST
ORI     : AND DISPATCH
JMP     :
RXINT:  IN      : READ DATA FROM SERIAL PORT
ANI     : TURN OFF HIGH ORDER BIT
CPI     : CONTROL X
JNZ     :
TESTDIS: LDA     : GET LINK STATE
ANI     : CONNECTING-CONNECTED. ANY ONE CONNECTED TO US
JZ      : YES. IGNORE THE REQUEST
JNZ     : NO. FOR CONNECT
MOV     : 0
RST     :
JMP     :
19H     : CONTROL Y
OFLOTES: OFLOTES
FORCEDISC: LDA     : GET LINK STATE
ANI     : CONNECTING-CONNECTED. ANY ONE CONNECTED TO US
JZ      : NO. IGNORE THE REQUEST
JNZ     : 1 FOR DISCONNECT
MOV     :
RST     :
JMP     :
OFLOTES: MOV     : SAVE DATA BYTE IN C
LDA     : GET OVERFLOW INDICATOR
ORI     : IS THE TERMINAL BUFFER FULL?
JZ      : YES. DON'T DO ANYTHING
JNZ     :
C.A     :
TB0FLO :
A       :
EXIT    :
OTBE    :
TBIP    :
1        : HL = TBIP+1
OVERFLOW: : INDICATE OVERFLOW IF BUFFER FULL
EXIT     :
TBIP     : EXIT INTERRUPT ROUTINE IF OVERFLOW
M.C     : PUT DATA IN BUFFER
H.O     :
WAIT     : RESET CHARACTER DELAY COUNT
H.BUF    :
M        : INCREMENT BUFFER DATA COUNT
A.C     : GET DATA BYTE IN A
LF       : IS IT A LINE FEED?
CLOSE    : YES. GO TO CLOSE THIS ENTRY
BUFCOUNT: : GET DATA COUNT
250     : IS IT 250 BYTES OR MORE?
CLOSE    : YES. GO TO CLOSE ENTRY
TB0FLO  :
A        : IS TERMINAL BUFFER FULL NOW?

```

```

JNZ     : YES. NOTHING MORE TO DO
LHLD    :
XCHG    :
LHLD    :
INCB    :
JNC      :
NO. CHARACTER IN CUSHION. DROP CTS AT HOST TO STOP SENDING
:
:
LDA     : GET LINK STATE
ANI     : CONNECTING-CONNECTED. ANY ONE CONNECTED TO US
MVI     : RLSO LINE FOR HOST BUT NO CTS
JZ      : NO. ONE CONNECTED. LEAVE DTR LINE LOW
JZ      : NO. ONE CONNECTED. LEAVE DTR LINE LOW
ORI     : SOMEONE THERE. RAISE (OR LEAVE HIGH) DTR LINE
MCR     : TURN OFF CLEAR TO SEND
JMP     : EXIT THE INTERRUPT ROUTINE
FLOW1:  JMP     :
EXIT:    POP     :
POP     :
POP     :
POP     :
EI       :
RET      :
DISPATCH: LXI     : GET SYNC WORD ADDRESS
LDA     : FETCH INC MODE
ANI     : CONNECTING-CONNECTED
JZ      : NO.
JZ      : DISPATCH
MVI     : DTR-OUT+RTS. CONNECTED. BRING UP DTR FOR HOST
JMP     : DISPATCH
DISPATCH: DI      :
LDA     : ALLOW ALL DATA TO GO OUT IF
ORI     : NOT CONNECTED IN ORDER TO
STAX    : KEEP TIP BUFFERS DRAINED
EI       :
DISPATCH: MVI     : DROP DTR FOR HOST
OUT      :
IN       :
IN       : GET LINK STATUS REGISTER
ANI     : IS THE TRANSMIT SHIFT REGISTER EMPTY?
JZ      : NO. THEN GET OUT OF HERE
JZ      : NO. THEN GET OUT OF HERE
LDA     : GET SYNC WORD
MOV     : PRESERVE FOR LATER TEST
ANI     : CAN WE SEND A BYTE?
JZ      : NO. SKIP
JZ      : DELAYCHECK
JZ      : TXSYNC. TRANSMIT ALREADY UNDERWAY?
JNZ     : YES. CONTINUE WITH TRANSMISSION
NEXTIN  : NO. TRY TO GET ANOTHER BUFFER
JZ      : DELAYCHECK. NONE AVAILABLE
MOV     : A.M. GET DATA LENGTH IN BUFFER HEADER
STA     : OUTCOUNT. AND SAVE IT FOR INTERRUPT ROUTINE
INCLB   :
SHLD    :
DI      :
LDA     : LBOP = OLBE + 3
ORI     : GET SYNC WORD
STAX    : SET UNDERWAY
EI       :
LHLD    :
INCLB   :
SHLD    :
MOV     : LBOP = LBOP+1
DI      :
THR     :
B       : OUTPUT DATA AT LBOP

```



```

ANI STAX      ;KILL THE SYNC BIT
EI
H.OUTCOUNT
M.DCR
JNZ DELAYCHECK
DI
LDAX
ANI
STAX
EI

CHECK IF IT IS TIME TO FLUSH THE TIP BUFFER TO THE LIP.CALC)
IF NO CHARACTER RECEIVED WITHIN THE LAST 17 MS (BY GSB.CALC)

DELAYCHECK:
LDA
ORA
RNZ
IN
ANI
JNZ DELAY2
LHLD
XCHG
LHLD
INCB
RC
LDA
ANI
MVI
JZ
ORI
OUT
MCR

TBOFLO
A
MCR
RIS
JNZ DELAY2
OTBE
TIP
CUSHION
IS BUFFER CUSHION FREE?
NO, DON'T TURN ON CTS OR DO DELAY CHECK
MODE
GET LINK STATE
CONNECTING*CONNECTED
ANY ONE CONNECTED TO US
A.RTS*OUT1
FLOW2
NO-ONE CONNECTED, LEAVE DTR LINE LOW
DTR
SOMEONE THERE, RAISE (OR LEAVE HIGH) DTR LINE
MCR
TURN ON CLEAR TO SEND

BUF COUNT
GET CURRENT DATA COUNT
IS COUNT ZERO?
YES, NOTHING TO CHECK, RETURN
WAIT
H
WAIT
A.H
CPI
1H

DISABLERX
CALL
BUF COUNT
CPI
0
ENABLERX
LDA
ORA
A
ENABLERX
CLOSE
CLOSE OFF THIS ENTRY
ENABLERX
ENABLE RECEIVER INTERRUPTS AND EXIT

SUBROUTINE TO CLOSE OFF TERMINAL BUFFER ENTRY AND PASS
TO CONTROL OF LIP.
CLOSE:
LXI
MOV
MVI
M.O
BUF COUNT = 0
CIBIE
MVI
A
SET UP DATA COUNT IN HEADER
OTBE
TIP
INCB
1
SHLD
CIBIE
CZ
OVERFLOW
INCB
1
TBIP

```

```

CZ
RET
OVERFLOW
RETURN TO CALLER

SUBROUTINE TO DISABLE 8250 RECEIVE INTERRUPTS
DISABLERX:
DI
IN
IER
OFFH-ERBFI
IER
OUT
EI
RET

SUBROUTINE TO ENABLE 8250 RECEIVE INTERRUPTS
ENABLERX:
DI
IN
IER
ERBFI
IER
OUT
EI
RET

SUBROUTINE TO TURN ON TERMINAL BUFFER OVERFLOW INDICATOR
OVERFLOW:
MVI
A.OFFH
TBOFLO
RET
END

```

"WISH LIST"

Plans are being made in several parts of the country to create a new version of the TNC board. Perhaps it will have additional capabilities, such as two HDLC ports, so that it can be used as a linking repeater.

Your comments and suggestions, possibly based on experience, are solicited.

Examples:

- "autobaud" TIP software to perform automatic speed setting
- combine LIP Terminal-to-terminal and Station-to-terminal programs.
- X-on, X-off flow control support in the TIP.
- make system configuration commands transparent to the data flow. e.g. Connect-disconnect commands.
- on TNC board, supply test power to pins 9 and 10 of DB25 modem connector.

TITLE 'VADCG TNC MODULE - LIP-TT (LAST REVISED 0725 01-SEP-81)'

 .. VADCG TERMINAL NODE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM - MODULE LIP ..
 .. BY DOUG LOCKHART, VE7APU .. DECEMBER, 1979 ..

 LAST CHANGED: JUNE 30, 1980
 CHANGED 20-AUG-81 FIXES THRU MEMO 10 AND SPECIAL RABBS CODE
 WILL ALLOW CONNECTIONS TO BE MADE IF TIP HAS SET THE 'ACCEPTICON'
 BIT IN 'MODE'. CONNECT AND DISCONNECT MESSAGES CHANGED SLIGHTLY

THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO RUN IN THE VADCG TERMINAL NODE CONTROLLER
 TOGETHER WITH A TERMINAL INTERFACE PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM DRIVES AN
 INTEL 8273 HDLC/SDLC PROTOCOL CONTROL CHIP USING INTERRUPTS AND RUNS
 IN ROM MEMORY.

MACLIB LIB85 : GET 8085 MACRO LIBRARY

INCTB
 MACRO 70
 MVI A,20
 RST 2
 ENDM

INCLB
 MACRO 70
 MVI A,20
 RST 3
 ENDM

MEMORY CONFIGURATION EQUATES
 LORAM EQU 01000H : FIRST BYTE OF CONTIGUOUS RAM AREA
 HIRAM EQU 01FE0H : LAST BYTE OF CONTIGUOUS RAM AREA

8273 PORT EQUATES

STAT73 EQU 10H : STATUS REGISTER
 COMW73 EQU 10H : COMMAND REGISTER
 PARW73 EQU 11H : PARAMETER REGISTER
 RESL73 EQU 11H : RESULT REGISTER
 TXIR73 EQU 12H : TRANSMIT INTERRUPT RESULT REGISTER
 RXIR73 EQU 13H : RECEIVER INTERRUPT RESULT REGISTER
 TXDATA EQU 18H : OUTPUT DATA PORT
 RXDATA EQU 20H : INPUT DATA PORT

8273 STATUS REGISTER BIT EQUATES

CPBF EQU 20H : COMMAND PARAMETER BUFFER FULL BIT
 CRBF EQU 10H : COMMAND RESULT BUFFER FULL BIT
 CBF EQU 40H : COMMAND BUFFER FULL BIT
 CBSY EQU 80H : COMMAND BUSY BIT
 TXIRA EQU 01H : TRANSMIT INTERRUPT RESULT AVAILABLE
 RXIRA EQU 02H : RECEIVE INTERRUPT RESULT AVAILABLE
 TINT EQU 04H : TX INTERRUPT BIT IN STATUS REGISTER
 RINT EQU 08H : RX INTERRUPT BIT IN STATUS REGISTER

8273 PORT A BIT EQUATES

CD EQU 02H : CARRIER DETECT BIT
 RIMD EQU 17H : REQUEST INITIALIZATION
 DISC EQU 53H : DISCONNECT WITH POLL BIT SET
 DISACK EQU 43H : DISCONNECT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
 RIMACK EQU 07H : REQUEST FOR INITIALIZATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
 RR EQU 01H : RECEIVE READY
 RNR EQU 05H : RECEIVE NOT READY

TERMINAL INTERFACE PROGRAM EQUATES
 EQU 0C00H : ADDRESS OF TERMINAL INTERFACE PROGRAM EPROM
 TIP EQU : TIP INITIALIZATION ENTRY POINT
 TIPINT EQU : INTERRUPT ENTRY POINT #1 IN TIP
 TIPINT1 EQU : INTERRUPT ENTRY POINT #2 IN TIP
 TIPINT2 EQU : ADDRESS OF DISPATCHER ENTRY POINT IN TIP
 TIPINT EQU : ADDRESS OF INITIALIZATION FRAME IN TIP
 RIMBUF EQU : ADDRESS OF TERMINAL NUMBER
 TERNMO EQU

PAGE

: COMMON COMMUNICATIONS AREA

: CIRCULAR TERMINAL BUFFER VARIABLES

CCA EQU : ADDRESS OF BEGINNING OF RAM AREA
 LORAM EQU : TERMINAL BUFFER OVERFLOW STATUS BYTE
 CCA*3 EQU : CURRENT TERMINAL BUFFER INPUT ENTRY
 CCA*4 EQU : OLDEST TERMINAL BUFFER ENTRY
 CCA*6 EQU : TERMINAL BUFFER INPUT POINTER
 CCA*8 EQU : TERMINAL BUFFER OUTPUT POINTER
 CCA*0AH EQU : TERMINAL BUFFER OUTPUT ENTRY
 CCA*0CH EQU : LAST TERMINAL BUFFER OUTPUT ENTRY
 CCA*0EH EQU : CURRENT TERMINAL BUFFER OUTPUT ENTRY

: CIRCULAR LINE BUFFER VARIABLES

LBPE EQU : LINE BUFFER PROCESSING ENTRY
 CLBE EQU : CURRENT LINE BUFFER ENTRY ADDRESS
 OLBE EQU : OLDEST LINE BUFFER ENTRY
 LBIP EQU : LINE BUFFER INPUT POINTER
 LBOP EQU : LINE BUFFER OUTPUT POINTER

: MISCELLANEOUS

NS EQU : NUMBER SENT
 NR EQU : NUMBER RECEIVED

T1 EQU : LINE TIMEOUT DELAY VALUE

BUFCOUNT EQU : CURRENT INPUT BUFFER COUNT FOR TIP
 OUTCOUNT EQU : CURRENT OUTPUT BUFFER COUNT FOR TIP

STAT1 EQU : MAINLINE STATUS BYTE

STAT1 EQU : CHANNEL CLEAR TIMEOUT IN PROGRESS
 DLY EQU : LINE TIMEOUT IN PROGRESS
 THOUT EQU : STATION HAS ACKNOWLEDGED RNR
 POLLR EQU : STATION DEMANDS RESPONSE
 RIMR EQU : REQUEST FOR INITIALIZATION RECEIVED
 RNR EQU : RECEIVE NOT READY HAS BEEN RECEIVED
 DISCR EQU : DISCONNECT FRAME HAS BEEN RECEIVED
 RNR EQU : RECEIVE NOT READY HAS BEEN SEND

STAT2 EQU : LINK STATUS

STAT2 EQU : STAT2 BYTE BIT EQUATES
 RXBUSY EQU 80H : RECEIVER IS BUSY
 TXBUSY EQU 40H : TRANSMITTER IS BUSY

FBIT EQU 10H : FINAL BIT HAS BEEN SENT

STAT3 EQU : LINE BUFFER OVERFLOW STATUS WHEN NE 0

STAT3 EQU : STAT3 BYTE BIT EQUATES
 OFLO EQU RNR*NRSA

: OVERFLOW STATUS BITS USED TO EXCLUSIVE
 : OR WITH RNR SENT & ACKNOWLEDGED BITS

USBUFFER EQU : CCA*1EH : U AND S-FRAME TRANSMIT BUFFER (2 BYTES)
 USCHD EQU : USBUFFER*1 : POINTS TO CONTROL FIELD IN USBUFFER

: RECEIVER COMMAND BUFFER
 RCHDBUF EQU CCA*20H : RECEIVE COMMAND BUFFER

ALT3:

```

ORI STA
LDA STA
ANI STA
STA STA
MVI STA
A.0 STA
TOCOUNT
MODE
ACCEPICOM
DISCONNECTING
ORI STA
JMP ALT3

```

ALT4:

```

ORI STA
LDA STA
ANI STA
STA STA
MVI STA
A.0 STA
TOCOUNT
MODE
ACCEPICOM
DISCONNECTING
ORI STA
JMP ALT3

```

RESTART 5 ROUTINE TO COMPARE HL WITH DE
 RETURNS ZERO CONDITION IF HL = DE
 RETURNS CARRY CONDITION IF HL > DE
 THIS ROUTINE ONLY AFFECTS STATUS. IT DOES NOT AFFECT REGISTERS
 COMPILE:

```

MOV B,A      ; SAVE ACCUMULATOR, BC ALREADY SAVED ON STACK
MOV A,D
CMP H
JNZ COMPRET  ; EXIT IF NOT EQUAL
MOV A,E
CMP L        ; COMPARE L WITH E
MOV A,B      ; RESTORE ACCUMULATOR
POP B        ; RESTORE BC FROM STACK
RET          ; RETURN TO CALLER

```

INITIALIZATION CODE
 ENTERED FROM RESTART INTERRUPT

```

INIT: DI      ; DISABLE INTERRUPTS
LXI D,HIRAM  ; HIRAM : HIGHEST ADDRESS TO CLEAR
LXI H,LORAM  ; LORAM : LOWEST ADDRESS TO CLEAR

```

CLEAR:

```

MVI M,0
INX H
MOV H,A,D
CMP H
JNZ CLEAR
MOV A,E
CMP L
JNZ CLEAR

```

SET UP STACK POINTER
 LXI SP,STACK

INITIALIZE LINE BUFFER VARIABLES

```

LXI H,LBA
SHLD CLBE
SHLD OLBE
SHLD LBPE
LXI H,LBA+3
SHLD LBIP

```

INITIALIZE TERMINAL BUFFER VARIABLES

```

LXI H,TBA
SHLD OTBE
SHLD CTBE
INX H
SHLD TBIP

```

INITIALIZE CONNECT BUFFER

```

LXI H,CBUF
D.RIMBUF
MVI B,8
LDAX D
MVI M,A

```

MOVLP: ; B<-- LENGTH OF INITIALIZATION DATA

```

INX H
INX D
DCR B
JNZ

```

INITIALIZE TRANSMIT COMMAND BUFFER
 H,OC804H ; TRANSMIT FRAME COMMAND
 LXI TCMDBUF
 SHLD TCMDADR ; SET UP THIS TERMINAL'S ADDRESS
 STA

INITIALIZE RECEIVE COMMAND BUFFER

```

LXI H,250
SHLD RCMDBUF
LXI H,OC002H
SHLD RCMDBUF

```

INITIALIZE 8273 MODE REGISTERS

```

LXI H,DATTRANS
CALL CMDOUT ; SET DATA TRANSFER MODE REGISTER
LXI H,OPMODE
CALL CMDOUT ; SET OPERATING MODE REGISTER
LXI H,SERIALIO
CALL CMDOUT ; SET SERIAL I/O MODE REGISTER
LXI H,DTR
CALL CMDOUT ; TURN ON DATA TERMINAL READY LINE
MVI A,19H ; UNMASK RST6.5 AND RST7.5 INTERRUPTS
SIM ; SET INTERRUPT MASK

```

CALL INITIALIZATION ENTRY POINT IN TERMINAL INTERFACE PROGRAM
 CALL TIPINIT ; LET TIP INITIALIZE ITSELF

ENABLE INTERRUPTS

DISPATCH:

```

LDA STAT2 ; GET LINK STATUS BYTE IN A
ANI TXBUSY ; IS TRANSMITTER ACTIVE?
CZ ; IF NOT, SEE IF TRANSMITTER SHOULD BE ACTIVATED
LDA STAT2 ; GET LINK STATUS BYTE IN A
ANI TXBUSY ; IS TRANSMITTER ACTIVE?
CZ ; IF NOT, TEST RECEIVER STATUS
LHLD CLBE ; DE <-- CURRENT LINE BUFFER ENTRY
XCHG ; HL <-- LINE BUFFER PROCESSING ENTRY
LHLD LBPE ; IS CURRENT ENTRY SAME AS PROCESSED ENTRY?
RST 5 ; IF NOT, GO TO PROCESS RECEIVED FRAMES
CNZ INPROC ; IF NOT, GO TO PROCESS RECEIVED FRAMES
CALL TIPINIT ; ALLOW TERMINAL INTERFACE PROGRAM TO RUN
JMP DISPATCH ; LOOP LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO

```

8273 INITIALIZATION COMMAND BUFFERS

```

DATTRANS: DB 1,97H,1 ; INTERRUPT ON DATA TRANSFERS
OPMODE: DB 1,91H,0FH ; NO HOLC ABORT, NO EOP INTERRUPTS
; EARLY TRANSMIT INTERRUPT, BUFFERED MODE, PREFRAME SYNC, FLAG STREAM
SERIALIO: DB 1,0A0H,1 ; NRZI MODE
DTR: DB 1,0A3H,4 ; ENABLE DATA TERMINAL READY

```

ON ENTRY HL CONTAINS LBPE. DE CONTAINS CLBE

INPROC:

```

LDA MODE
ANI INFRAME ; YES, PROCESS RECEIVED FRAME
JNZ INCLB ; POINT HL AT CONTROL FIELD
MVI A,1
ANA ANA
JZ INCRLBPE
MVI A,0EFH
ANA ANA
RIMACK
CMPCALL
JZ

```



```

POLLER      : TEST FOR POLL BIT
STAT1       : GET MAINLINE STATUS BYTE IN A
SHORTTO     : START SHORT LINE TIMEOUT IF NO POLL BIT
OFF-TMOUT   : TMOUT = 0
IFRAME2     : GO TO UPDATE MAINLINE STATUS

H.200       : SHORT TIMEOUT COUNT - DURATION SHOULD BE
              : EQUIVALENT TO A 256 BYTE TRANSMISSION

```

```

OFFH-DLY ; DLY = 0
TMOUT ; TMOUT = 1

```

```

OFFH-RNRS-RNRS = RNRS = 0, RNRS = 0
POLLR      : POLLR = 1
STAT1      : UPDATE MAINLINE STATUS
LBPE       :
A.M        : A <-- LENGTH OF DATA
0          : IS DATA LENGTH = 0?
BADFRAME   : YES, BAD PROTOCOL
3          : HL POINTS TO C-FIELD
NRPROC     : PROCESS NR RECEIVED
LBPE       : HL <-- LBPE
3          : POINT HL AT C-FIELD
A.M        : A <-- C-FIELD
OEH        : SELECT NS BITS

```

SHIFT LEFT FOUR BITS
; FOR COMPARISON TEST

```

B.A      : SAVE IN B
NR       : A <-- NR
B        : IS NR  NS RECEIVED?
NR       : NO, ENTRY OUT OF SEQUENCE, SKIP IT
20H      : NR = NR + 1 (COME HERE IF NS IS OK)
NR       : UPDATE NR
NR       : GO TO POINT TO NEXT ENTRY
INCRBP   :

```

```

STATZ      : GET LINK STATUS IN A
RXBUZ      : IS THE RECEIVER OPERATING?
RXACTIVE    : YES
OLBE       :
CLBE       :
           : DE --- OLBE
           : HL --- CLBE

```

```

RBUSYTEST1
STAT3      : GET OVERFLOW STATUS BYTE
            : TEST FOR LINE BUFFER OVERFLOW
            : RETURN, NO ROOM IN BUFFER AT ALL

3          : SKIP TESTS BECAUSE BUFFER IS EMPTY

RBUSYTEST2
STAT3      : CLBE <- CLBE + 3
            : RETURN IF CLBE+3 = OLBE
            : RETURN IF CLBE + 3 > OLBE

```

```

LBIP      : LBIP = CLBE + 3
RXCHOUT   : .....
A.RXBUSY  : .....
STAT2     : UPDATE LINK STATUS BYTE
           : RETURN TO DISPATCHER

STAT1     : GET MAINLINE STATUS BYTE TO TEST
TMOUT     : IS LINE TIMEOUT IN PROGRESS?
           : NO NEED TO PROCESS TIMER
TESTCH    : TEST IF CHANNEL BUSY
           : YES IT IS. NO NEED TO PROCESS TIME

```

```

TIME : GET TIMEOUT COUNT IN RL
H : DECREMENT COUNT
TIME : UPDATE TIMER VALUE

```


[illegible]

DELAY: CALL TIMER
 RNZ
 TESTCH
 H.DISR
 CMDOUT
 A.TXBUSY
 STA2
 STARTTRANSMIT
 LDA
 ANI
 STA1
 OFFH-POLL
 STA1
 TXFRAME
 JMP
 RET
 PAGE

: PROCESS DELAY TIMER
 : RETURN, CHANNEL CLEAR DELAY STILL ACTIVE
 : TEST IF CHANNEL IS BUSY
 : YES IT IS, RETURN TO MAINLINE
 : POINT TO DISABLE RECEIVER COMMAND
 : DISABLE RECEIVER
 : RXBUSY=0, TXBUSY=1, FBIT=0
 : UPDATE LINK STATUS BYTE
 : SET UP FRAMES FOR TRANSMISSION
 : GET MAINLINE STATUS INTO A
 : POLL=0
 : UPDATE MAINLINE STATUS
 : START TRANSMITTER AND RETURN TO DISPATCHER
 : RETURN TO DISPATCHER

STAT1
 RIMR
 SENDCNCTBUF
 MODE
 CONNECTED
 NOCONNECT
 H.USBUFER
 CTBOE
 STAT1
 ANI
 RNRR
 ENDESETUP
 CTBIE
 OTBE
 5
 ENDESETUP
 CTBOE
 H
 NS
 C.L
 B.H
 POP
 MOV
 POP
 PUSH
 PUSH
 MOV
 RST
 MOV
 ORA
 MOV
 POP
 MOV
 ADI
 RST
 SHLD
 JZ
 MOV
 ADI
 ANI
 MOV
 ADI
 ANI
 PUSH
 LXI
 CMP
 POP
 JZ
 POP
 JMP
 NOCONNECT:

: MAKE BUFFER FOR U & S-FRAMES CURRENT
 : GET MAINLINE STATUS BYTE IN A
 : HAS RNR BEEN RECEIVED?
 : YES, NOT READY FOR I-FRAMES
 : DE --- CTBIE
 : HL --- OTBE
 : DOES OTBE = CTBIE?
 : YES, NOT READY TO SEND I-FRAMES
 : C --- CURRENT NS VALUE
 : B --- CURRENT NR VALUE
 : HL --- OTBE, DE HAS CTBIE
 : BUFFER ADDRESS ON STACK TWICE
 : POINT HL AT CONTROL FIELD IN BUFFER
 : SET UP NR
 : SET UP NS
 : SET UP I-TYPE CONTROL FIELD IN BUFFER
 : POINT HL AT LENGTH FIELD IN A
 : GET LENGTH BYTE IN A
 : ADD 2 TO GET PAST HEADER
 : POINT HL AT NEXT ENTRY
 : UPDATE LAST OUTPUT ENTRY
 : LBOF
 : ENDESETUP
 : A.C
 : 2
 : OEH
 : C.A
 : 2
 : OEH
 : H.NS
 : M
 : H
 : ENDESETUP
 : PSW
 : CSETUP
 : CTBIE
 : OTBE
 : 5

STARTTRANSMIT:
 LDA
 ANI
 JNZ
 LDA
 ANI
 JZ
 LXI
 SHLD
 ANI
 JNZ
 LHL
 XCHG
 LHL
 RST
 JZ
 SHLD
 PUSH
 LHL
 MOV
 MOV
 POP
 CSETUP:

: NOCONNECT:

OEH
 BADSTAT
 LBIP
 1
 CLBE
 CLBE
 LBIP
 4
 OVERFLOW1
 OVERFLOW1
 STARTRX
 RXDATA
 D
 B
 H.DISR
 CMDOUT
 STAT2
 OFFH-RXBUSY
 STA2
 A.OFLO
 STAT3
 EXIT
 CLBE
 3
 LBIP
 RXCMDOUT
 B
 D
 H
 PSW
 OC500H
 STAT1
 DLY-TMOUT
 DELAY
 STAT1
 C.A
 RIMR-DISCR-POLL
 COTEST
 MODE
 DISCONNECTING-CONNECTING
 COTEST
 STAT3
 C
 OFLO
 COTEST
 A.C
 RNRR
 CTBIE
 OTBE
 5
 TESTCH
 STAT1
 DLY
 STAT1
 RANDOM
 CALL
 RNZ
 LDA
 ORI
 STA
 CALL
 RET

: GOOD RETURN?
 : NO, GO HANDLE BAD RETURN CODE
 : HL --- LBIP
 : HL --- LBIP + 1
 : CLBE --- LBIP + 1
 : DE --- OLBE
 : HL --- LBIP + 4
 : OOPS, NO ROOM LEFT
 : GOOD, GO AND START RECEIVER
 : READ DATA TO CLEAR INTERRUPT
 : SAVE REST OF REGISTERS
 : POINT TO DISABLE RECEIVER COMMAND
 : DISABLE RECEIVER
 : GET LINK STATUS BYTE INTO A
 : INDICATE RECEIVER NOT BUSY
 : UPDATE LINK STATUS BYTE
 : INDICATE LINK STATUS BYTE
 : UPDATE LINK STATUS BYTE
 : EXIT FROM INTERRUPT ROUTINE
 : HL --- CURRENT ENTRY POINTER
 : HL --- CLBE + 3
 : UPDATE LINE BUFFER INPUT POINTER
 : ISSUE RECEIVE COMMAND TO 8273
 : RESTORE REGISTERS
 : RESTORE PSW
 : ENABLE INTERRUPTS
 : RETURN TO INTERRUPTED CODE
 : DISABLE RECEIVER COMMAND BUFFER
 : GET MAINLINE STATUS
 : TEST FOR TIMER ACTIVITY
 : HANDLE CHANNEL AVAILABLE DELAY
 : IF RECEIVE TIMEOUT IN PROGRESS, RETURN TO MAINLINE
 : GET MAINLINE STATUS IN A
 : SAVE STATUS IN C
 : MUST WE TRANSMIT?
 : YES, GO TO TEST IF CHANNEL IS FREE
 : DISCONNECTING-CONNECTING
 : GET OVERFLOW STATUS BYTE IN A
 : EXCLUSIVE OR WITH MAINLINE STATUS BYTE
 : IF ZERO, THEN RNRR-RNRRSA-OFLO
 : GET MAINLINE STATUS AGAIN
 : CAN STATION RECEIVE I-FRAMES?
 : NO, RETURN TO DISPATCHER
 : IS CURRENT TERM. BUFFER - OLDEST TERM. BUFFER?
 : YES, NOTHING TO TRANSMIT, RETURN TO DISPATCHER
 : TEST IF CHANNEL IS OCCUPIED
 : YES, RETURN IF CHANNEL IS OCCUPIED
 : GET MAINLINE STATUS IN A
 : INDICATE CHANNEL CLEAR DELAY
 : UPDATE MAINLINE STATUS BYTE
 : SET TIMER COUNT TO RANDOM VALUE
 : RETURN TO MAINLINE


```

INCR:  PUSH      B
      MOV       C,A
      MVI      B,0
      RST      5
      JC       INCR3
      DAD      B
      RST      5
      POP      D
      POP      B
      PUSH     PSW
      XCHG     RST
      XCHG     RST
      JC       INCR1
      DAD      B
      POP      PSW
      RET

INCR1:
INCR3:
      DAD      B
      POP      RET
      DAD      B
      XCHG     XTHL
      RST      5
      JC       INCR4
      XCHG     POP
      POP      B
      DAD      B
      RST      5
      RET
      CMC
      XCHG     POP
      POP      RET

```

```

      STORE BUFFER END ADDRESS ON STACK
      BC <-- INCREMENT COUNT
      COMPARE HL WITH DE
      HL <-- INCREMENTED VALUE
      Z
      L
      SAVE CURRENT STATUS
      HL <-- Z. DE <-- X
      Z > X ?
      HL <-- X. DE <-- Z
      SUBTRACT BUFFER LENGTH
      RESTORE STATUS
      COMPARE HL TO DE
      BC <-- (-L)
      HL <-- X + (-L)
      SET CARRY = 1
      HL <-- X
      CLEAR (-L) FROM STACK

```

```

      SETS UP RANDOM COUNT BETWEEN 100H AND 4FFH IN 'TIME'
RANDOM:  LDA      RANVAL
      ADI      187
      STA      RANVAL
      RLC
      RLC
      LXI      R1,TIME
      MOV      M,A
      ANI      03H
      ADI      03H
      INX      H
      MOV      M,A
      RET

      TESTS IF CARRIER DETECT IS ACTIVE
      ZERO STATUS RETURNED IF INACTIVE
      TESTCH: LXI      H,RDPORTA
      CALL     CHDOUT
      CALL     INDRLT
      ANI      CD
      RET
      RDPORTA DB 0.22H

      STARTS TRANSMIT OF BUFFER POINTED TO BY CTBE
TXFRAME: LHLD     CTBOE
      HL <-- CURRENT TRANSMIT BUFFER OUTPUT ENTRY
      ENTRY POINT TO TRANSMIT BUFFER AT HL
      TXF1:  MOV      A,M
      MVI      A,1
      RST      2
      TBOP
      MOV      A,M
      MVI      A,1
      XCHCON
      FBIT
      TXF2

```

```

      MVI      A, TXBUSY+FBIT
      STA      STAT2
      LXI      H, TCMD8BUF
      CALL     CHDOUT
      RET

```

```

      FUNCTION: COMMAND DISPATCHER
      INPUTS: HL - COMMAND BUFFER ADDRESS
      OUTPUTS: NONE
      CALLS: NONE
      DESTROYS: A,B,H,L,F,F'S
      DESCRIPTION: CHDOUT ISSUES THE COMMAND * PARAMETERS
      IN THE COMMAND BUFFER POINTED AT BY HL.
      RXCMDOUT: LXI      H,RCMD8BUF
      CHDOUT:  MOV      B,M
      INX      H
      STAT73
      JC       CHD1
      RLC
      JC       CHD1
      MOV      A,M
      OUT      COMH73
      MOV      A,B
      GET PARAMETER COUNT
      TEST IF ZERO
      IF ZERO THEN DONE
      NOT DONE, SO POINT AT NEXT PARAMETER
      DECREMENT PARAMETER COUNT
      STAT73
      CPBF     CPBF
      JNZ      CHD3
      MOV      A,M
      OUT      PARM73
      JMP      CHD2

```

```

      RETURNS RESULT FROM 8273
      RETURNS WITH RESULT BYTE IN A
      INDRLT: IN
      ANI      STAT73
      JZ       CRBF
      IN
      RET
      END

```

Mailing List, Contact Persons

In response to many requests, we will publish our mailing list in the next newsletter. This will help people to locate other packet radio enthusiasts near them. If you do not wish your name and address to be published, let us know now. If you wish to be known as a contact person in your area, let us know and we will publish the fact.

by

DOUGLAS LOCKHART, VE7APU

OCTOBER 1981

In the last couple of years the Vancouver Amateur Digital Communication Group programmable communication controller has been used in many areas of the U.S. and Canada. As one of those who worked on the development of the board and its software, I am very pleased to see that it has gained fairly widespread acceptance in the Amateur Radio fraternity. It was not so clear, a couple of years ago, whether or not it would be accepted since it involved the use of techniques unused in Amateur Radio at the time. My impression of Amateur Radio at that time was that it had a great deal of inertia or resistance to change. But at the same time, like a massive body, once it gets moving has a large momentum. Now I believe that Amateur Radio is moving into digital communications and that nothing is going to stop it. We only need to guide it to the best system that we can. And what is the best digital communications system for Amateur Radio? I don't think anyone knows. The design of a commercial digital communication network costs hundreds of millions of dollars. That's right! - just for the design, not for the implementation. Yet, even after all this expenditure, most commercial systems have their problems and detractors. So, in spite of the small amount of money that Amateur Radio will be spending on network design, we may still be able to come up with a system equal to or surpassing commercial designs. With this in mind I will outline the general philosophy of the system we are working on in the VADCG.

Firstly, we wanted a low-cost interface to the network for an end-user. We felt that a user should not need to have a computer just to access the network. For this reason, we designed, produced and programmed the VADCG programmable controller. Of course, there were many other good reasons for going this way, but I am mainly trying to show the function of the controller in the network.

The network we designed the board for was not intended to be homogeneous but a network in which nodes would have different functions. Some of the node functions identified were:

1. A 'Terminal' or 'End-user' node. Typically, someone with only a teletype or video terminal, although a user accessing the network through his microcomputer would also qualify in this category. (i.e. An intelligent terminal.)
2. A 'Gateway' node. A node which allows users on the network to access another communications system. Examples:
 - 2.1 A gateway to the telephone system using an auto-answer/autodial 103 type modem.
 - 2.2 A gateway to a digital communications channel on a satellite.
 - 2.3 A gateway to the local VHF RTTY channel.
 - 2.4 A gateway to another amateur digital communications network.

Note that if a node is used to interconnect two networks

which have the same protocols, it should not be called a 'gateway' because, in this case, the two networks are actually only parts of a larger network.

3. A 'Repeater' node. Used to extend the coverage of the network.
4. A 'Logging' node. To record activity on the network to satisfy regulations as well as for performance analysis.
5. 'Host' node. This is the computer system attached to the network and is usually the system that the end-user wants to use. It contains the programs and files that the user wants to use, such as editors, games, compilers, assemblers, file transfer programs, files of swap and shop information and mailing lists, etc.
6. 'Station' node. Coordinates the operation of the other types of nodes in the network. Provides network services and communication between the network and the end-user, repeater, logging, gateway and host nodes. At present, all messages pass through the station node but this is not an absolute requirement in order for the station node to do its job. The station node provides the higher levels of network protocol that the simple end-user cannot provide for himself because of the limitations in storage capacity and complexity in the end-user interface.
7. 'Message-switching' node. This is a node which has sufficient storage capacity to be able to store messages and data for an extended period of time. Such a node would be something like a CBBS system. Information which could not be transmitted to its destination immediately could be left here to be sent onward when the destination node was available. The communication network is a packet switching network and so it has little storage capacity for messages. Messages are sent through the network only when both the source and destination nodes are available. The message switching node could have messages to be received by any user on request as well as messages intended only for a specific user.

As you can see, the station node has a much more complex task than any of the other node types. Furthermore, the station node becomes almost indispensable in a system designed to use it. Because of heavy reliance on this node, it should be backed up by another station node in the area or by a repeater node allowing communication to another area which also has a station node. The hardware for the station node should be fairly reliable since it involves no moving parts. The station node being used by the VADCG for example is a three-card S-100 bus system. One card is a standard CPU card, another is a 64K dynamic memory card - both of these are standard S-100 cards readily available from many suppliers. The third card is a special I/O card the VADCG has developed for handling the special needs of the station node. The card has four channels of HDLC communication using the Intel 8273 chip and six interval timers. The interval timers are used to handle line timeouts and to simulate a time-of-day clock. The timers and the HDLC channels are all interrupt driven using 16 channels of vectored interrupts provided by two AMD9519 chips. Also using the interrupt structure is the power failure circuitry, the transmitter fault detection circuitry and the circuitry to detect software failures or loops. A failure in any of these areas will cause the CPU to enter a program contained in up to 8K of EPROM storage on the same card. This program allows upline reloading of the station node software or downline dumping of the station node software for analysis of software errors. Each channel has a choice of Baud rates and can operate with either synchronous or asynchronous modems. A number of extra control lines for input or output are provided to control external devices.

Some of the functions and services provided by the station node are:

1. Establishment and termination of virtual connections between nodes in the network.
 2. Communication with the end-user in plain language. For example, the station node will provide an explanation of why a virtual connection could not be made. It will interpret and act on network commands submitted through a terminal keyboard. It will provide a list of the status of other users signed onto the local domain or provide a list of users in another domain. (for example).
 3. Drive a logging node to record the connection/disconnection of the users of the network giving times and dates as well as usage statistics.
 4. Drive a repeater node so that the repeater will do intelligent repeating of frames. Not all frames received by the repeater should be repeated.
 5. Provide the higher levels of protocol required for an extended network for the minimum end-user system.
 6. Make routing decisions and keep dynamically, information on delay times. The routing system as planned will use a distributed delta routing system allowing multiple paths for communication between station nodes something like Arpanet routing scheme. Routing decisions will be based on minimal delay time. Changes in delay times detected by a station node will be passed to adjacent station nodes. New station nodes in the network will be integrated dynamically and will be deleted when communication is lost.
 7. Communicate with non-end-user nodes in the network using concise coded or formatted network commands suitable for computer interpretation and generation.
- The above is not a complete list of functions provided by the station node. Others will probably be incorporated as the system develops but this list should give the idea of what the function of the station node is.

It should be noted that the above six types of nodes are not the only types possible but only the ones which we have identified as being the most important at the present time. Most functions can be identified as belonging to one of these six types, even though there may be occasions where there is an overlapping of function. See Figure 1 which should help to clarify the relationship of the nodes. Each station node has a 'domain' associated with it. The domain is the set of nodes that the station is providing services for. The domain is typically a geographical area such as a city but different station nodes may operate on different frequencies in the same geographical area. Also, one station node may operate on different frequencies and different baud rates at the same time. The lines between the nodes on Fig. 1 represent logical communication links at the datalink level of communication. Not all possible communication links are allowed. Direct communication is only allowed between a station node and another node type or between two station nodes. However, a repeater node may be used as an intermediate node in this communication.

Any message sent between non-station nodes has to be routed through the station node in each domain. To some, this may appear as a harsh restriction on the communication possible for, after all, there may be nodes in the domain that can communicate directly because of their proximity. To answer this, let's look at the advantages of going through the station node and the reasons for communication with the station node.

1. Standardization of the radio link. Each node's equipment only has to be set up to interface with one point. This means that adjustment to the modem, power of the transmitter, orientation of the antenna and various other requirements for establishing a communication link only have to be set up for one link, not requiring a large amount of coordination with various nodes. Once establishment of communication with the station node, no other concern for communication with the rest of the network is required.

2. Low power and directional antennar can be used for the link. No rotator is required even if using a directional antenna.
3. Nodes which are out of broadcast range anyway would have to go through the station node.
4. Nodes which were using a different band would have to go through the station node to communicate.
5. Nodes which were using different speeds would have to go through the station node.
6. Nodes which require protocol translation would have to go through the station node. (more on this later.)
7. Nodes communicating outside of the local station node's domain would likely have to go through the station node.
8. All nodes using network services would have to communicate with the station.

9. Establishment and termination of connections between nodes would have to be arranged through connection services in the station node.

The above considerations do not totally rule out the channel sharing advantages of being able to have nodes communicating directly on the same channel as that of the station node when they are using the same speed and not requiring protocol translation and are within communication range. The protocol would have to be more complicated to allow these two types of communication to be carried on the same channel and yet allow coordination by the station node. All I can say is that the present software does not coordinate communications on the channel which do not pass through the station node. The software, however does ignore all addresses which have not been assigned by the station node so that other digital communication can share the channel. It would probably be more appropriate that these nodes use another channel for their communication since they appear to have little need of the network.

You are probably wondering how the VADCG programmable communications controller fits into this network architecture since most users of the board are using software in the board which communicates directly from one end-user to another end-user. Well in fact, this software which is commonly in use was written after the original software for the station node architecture had been written and was already in use. The terminal-to-terminal software is actually a modification of the original software to get it to work in the station-less environment. In fact, the hardware was limited to 4K of EPROM and 4K of RAM because the higher levels of protocol were going to be provided by the station node or by the host node. In spite of the general usage of the board for direct communication, it is still the intent of the VADCG to develop a network based on the station node concept. More circuits have been developed and software has been written for use in this type of network recently.

As Figure 1 shows, this architecture is distributed at the station node level but not at the lower levels. There are multiple communication paths between station nodes, but only

single paths between the station node and other nodes in a domain. The VADCG board can be used in the terminal node, the repeater node, the logging node, the gateway node and the host node. However it probably is not suitable for use in the station node due to limited memory and the fact that it is a single channel. With suitable programming, it could possibly be used as a type of front end processor for the station node. The VADCG is developing separate hardware for the station node.

PROTOCOL LAYERS

THE PHYSICAL LAYER - This is the lowest level. It details the characteristics of the physical communications interface between the system components. We are adhering closely to RS-232 standards in the use of connectors, pin assignments and voltage levels but, in addition to the RS-232 serial interface, we are providing a TTL level parallel interface and a 20ma. current loop interface in order to accommodate the widest possible choice of end-user equipment.

THE DATA LINK LAYER - This layer manages the error-free transmission of frames over communication links between nodes in the system. Most communication networks are using a system very close to the HDLC standard as is the system we are using. This protocol is the same as that being used in the VADCG programmable controller for direct communication now. Unlike IBM's SNA, which supports only an unbalanced version of HDLC, we are using a balanced version in which neither node at each end of the link operates in slave mode. Both nodes share packet transmission and recovery responsibility. When this layer receives a frame in error according to the frame check sequence contained within each frame, it requests the retransmission of that frame and all following frames. The reception of each frame is acknowledged, and if no acknowledgment is received, some transmission fault is assumed to have occurred and corrective action is taken. This is usually an additional request for acknowledgment. If additional requests for acknowledgment fail then the link is assumed to have failed and other corrective action is taken. The protocol requires positive acknowledgment only after every 7 packets. The establishment of the link uses an initial connection protocol (ICP) in which information is exchanged between the connecting node and the station node. The connecting node passes a description of itself to the station node which keeps it in a table for the duration of the connection. The station node passes an assigned data link address to the connecting node which is used by both the connecting node and the station node for the duration of the connection. The protocol is half-duplex, multipoint and uses a carrier sense technique (CSMA) to resolve contention on the radio channel and improve throughput. The contention protocol used by the station node is slightly different than that of the other nodes in order to give the station node an advantage when contending for use of the channel. This is done because all traffic in the domain must pass through the station node. The station node is working for all the other nodes.

THE NETWORK LAYER - This layer provides services which transport data through the network to its destination node. Messages that are transferred between domains in the network require a full network address flow control functions. This information is added to the beginning of the packet as another block of information

creating what I call a type 2 packet. The packets coming from a simple end-user do not have this additional information and are in a type 1 format. These services are provided in the station node but may be provided by a multi-user host node. The decision to support type 1 or type 2 packets by a host node is indicated at the time of initial connection. When type 2 packets are selected, no translation of packets is done by the station and the management of the destination and source address fields as well as management of the sequence number is left to the host node. See figures 2 and 3 for the layout of the packets.

The following is an explanation of Figure 4:

After receiving a packet is translated into a type 2 packet using tables kept in the station node. The packet may already be type 2 in which case this translation is not necessary. The packet is then analyzed to see what its destination is. If the packet is not for this domain, then it is routed back to data-link control. The router uses routing tables kept by higher layers to decide what link the data should be forwarded on. If the packet is for this domain then it is either for network services or for another node in this domain. If it is for another node in this domain it is translated to type 1 if necessary and passed to the data-link layer. If it is for network services, then it is checked to see that it originated from an end-user terminal. If it did, it means that the data has been typed in using English words and must be parsed and analyzed by Terminal Input Services before being passed to Network Services for action.

As a result of the commands received by Network Services, Network Services may have control messages of its own to send to various points in the network. These control messages use codes suitable for interpretation by a computer. If they are to be sent to another domain, then they are sent via the router to DataLink Control output. If they are for this domain and have to be interpreted by an end-user (terminal), they are passed to Terminal Output services which translates the codes to suitable English language sentences. The packet format is translated to type 1 if necessary before being passed directly to DataLink Control output. This technique has a couple of advantages. First, since a knowledge of the details of the characteristics of the terminal is kept in the domain's station node, Terminal Output Services has all the information available to do fancy formatting of the message to the terminal. It knows the line length, whether the terminal supports lower case, highlighting, gotoxy, erase screen, etc. This is not known at the remote Network Service point. Secondly, the computer format is more compact than the form put out by Terminal Output Services and so is more efficient at utilizing the longer communication channels.

Note that for every command that can be entered in through a keyboard by an end-user, there is a corresponding coded command suitable for generation by a computer. Likewise, for every plain language response to a command, there is a coded (or formatted) response for a computer program. This means, for example, that if there is a file transfer program running in a Host computer the file transfer program can establish a virtual connection with another node using the network commands, transfer data across the connection and terminate the connection without human intervention. Host nodes are capable of establishing multiple virtual connections at the same time.

DEVICE SUPPORT

As mentioned earlier, the station node receives and holds information on the configuration of each connected node. This information is passed to the station at initial connection. In the case of a terminal node, this information contains details of the device characteristics and addresses in the node. When a connection is established between an application program and a device, the application program can request the device characteristic information from the station node. On the basis of this information, the application program can decide how to communicate with this device or even if it is capable of communicating with it. For example, suppose a user tried to use a full screen editor program but only had a hard-copy ASR-33 terminal. The application program can send an error message to the user and disconnect. On the other hand, suppose the full-screen editor program found that it was communicating with a video display, then it would need to know how many lines and columns were in the display, whether lower case

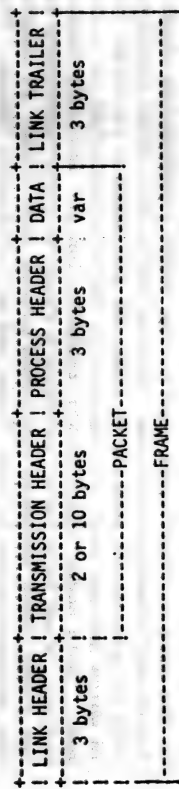
was supported, whether highlighting was supported, etc. The full screen editor would then be able to communicate with the video display efficiently. This exchange of information binds the device and the application program if successful. There will be commands available to the end-user to dynamically change the device characteristic information after connecting to the station node.

SUMMARY

I was hoping to be able to go into more detail on the routing, device support and packet formats in this paper but I realize that each of these ought to be the subject of separate papers.

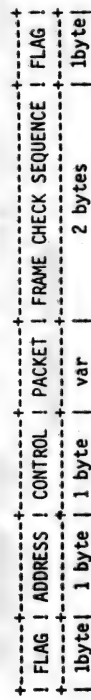
The author feels that the station node concept of network development offers the most function for the least cost to the minimal end-user. The specialization of function in the system prevents the waste incurred by duplicating the same code in every node. As new functions and services become available, they are instantly available to all users of the network. The routing decisions are made at the station node level and the network is distributed at this level. This appears to be a reasonable tradeoff since the routing code is fairly complex and maintains a large amount of network information. Furthermore, there does not appear to be a simple distributed routing system in the literature that is workable for the low-cost end-user node. The many advantages that the station node offers appear to strongly outweigh the disadvantage of having to rely on it. In any case, we will have to rely on something if we are going to get our messages relayed across the continent reliably and I am sure that Amateur Radio is going to have its own digital communications network operating across the continent before very long.

FRAME LAYOUT



The 'frame' is the block of information that is physically transmitted on a link in the network. Note that this is not the same as the 'packet' which is only part of the frame. The 'packet' is the information that is actually passed from one node to another node in the network. The 'link header' and 'link trailer' surround the packet and are used to convey the packet from one node to another. The Datalink Control layer of protocol manages the link and adds the datalink header and trailer to the packet before it is transmitted and analyzes and removes the header and trailer when a frame is received.

LINK HEADER AND TRAILER



FLAG bytes are used to separate frames. The flag byte is the binary sequence of 0111110 = hexadecimal '7E'. This sequence will not occur between frames because of a 'bit stuffing' technique used to transmit the data.

The ADDRESS field identifies the link address. Each physical link allowed in the network has its own address. It uniquely identifies the two end points or nodes that the link physically connects. The uniqueness only extends as far as the domain of the local station node which dynamically assigns these link addresses. Although HDLC protocol standards allow for up to two bytes of address we are only using one byte at the present time because it is --it that 256 different links would not likely be operating

in one domain at the same time. The use of two bytes of datalink address will be considered after more work is done with the existing datalink protocol. Note that both end nodes use the same link address when communicating.

The CONTROL field is very similar to the HDLC or SDLC standards except that only a subset of the possible frame types is used. The control field identifies the type of frame. There are three types of frames:

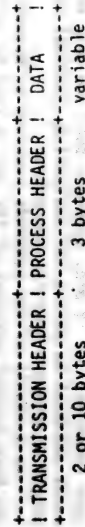
1. Information frame. This is the frame which actually contains the packet. The layout and usage is the same as in SDLC.
2. Supervisory frame. Only RR (Receive Ready) and RNR (Receive not Ready) are supported. REJ (Reject) is not being used since only half duplex links are being used. Extensions of this protocol to support full duplex links will use REJ supervisory frames. Supervisory frames are used to manage the link but do not directly pass packets.
3. Non-sequenced frames are used to handle special or exceptional conditions on the link such as link startup and termination and logical errors encountered on the link. Only four of the 32 different types are used at present.

The FRAME CHECK SEQUENCE (FCS) field is a type of check sum of all the bytes in the frame. It is used to verify that all the information in the frame was received correctly. It is the same as the HDLC standard.

I will not go into any more detail about the Link header and trailer because this protocol is very similar to the HDLC protocol and it has been described in some detail in a copy of the AMRAD newsletter recently. Furthermore, this protocol has been in use for some time now and has proven to be reliable and effective in providing flow control and data integrity across the various links in the network. So let's look at the next higher level which has not been fully implemented - the packet level.

PACKET LAYOUT

The 'Packet' is the information in an information frame. It is sandwiched between the link header and link trailer.

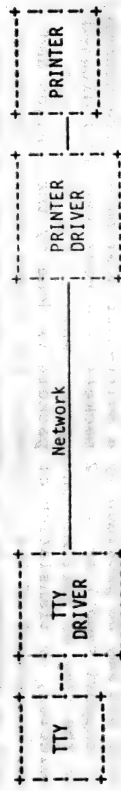


The packet is divided into 3 fields:

The 'Transmission Header' contains information that is used to route the packet through the network and provide for the orderly flow of packets in the network. This information is no longer needed when the packet reaches its destination.

The 'Process Header' describes the data field to the destination program. The information contained in the process header allows for the orderly exchange of information between two processes. The concept of a 'process' may not be understood by many of the readers so I will digress for a moment and try to explain what is meant by a 'process'.

In a network, communication is not done directly between devices at each end. The communication is actually between programs operating at each end. For example, let's say you were typing on the keyboard of a TTY connected to the network and the data was being printed on a printer a long way off connected to the same network. This is what it would look like:



As you can see, it is the two drivers that are exchanging the information passed from and to the network. The drivers could also be called processes.

i.e. the TTY process and the printer process. 'Process' is a more general term than 'driver', which only implies a hardware device. A process can serve a program as well. Getting back to the above example again. The type of information exchanged between processes is very much different depending on the type of processes. The information in the process header is put in by the source process and stripped off and used by the destination process. It will not be passed directly to the printer in the above example. The TTY process may want to tell the printer process the tab settings that will be required on the printer. The information in the process header allows the printer driver to discriminate between data listing the tab settings and data to actually be forwarded directly to the printer.

TRANSMISSION HEADER LAYOUT

```

0 1 2 3
7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Type | Flags | Reserved | Destination Address |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| cont. | | Source Address | |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Sequence | | | |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

Type: 4 bits

Indicates the format of the transmission header. The figure above describes a type 2 transmission header which is ten bytes long, and would have a value of 0010 binary in the type field. There is also a type 1 transmission header which is only two bytes long and is used for simple end users of the network and allows the station node to provide the higher levels of transmission protocol. It will be described later.

Flags: 4 bits

Controls segmentation of packets and expedited flow of packets.

```

3 2 1 0
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Segment | R | EF | |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

Segment
11 - Only segment
10 - First segment
01 - Last segment
00 - Middle segment

R = reserved bit

EF = Expedited flow
1 - Expedited
0 - Not expedited/
Normal flow

Since there may be a requirement in the future to reduce the size of the packets to allow them to pass over links or through other systems which need smaller size packets to operate, segmentation (also called fragmentation) of packets is supported. Packets may be reassembled again using the information in the segment field. The segmentation field is not used when the expedited flow indicator is on and expedited packets may not be segmented. The sequence field is not used when a packet is expedited as it will be handled out of sequence.

Destination Address: 24 bits

The originating address. The final usage of all these bits has not been finalized. The first byte (8bits) is the originating domain address, the second byte is the link address in the domain and the third byte is used to identify the process operating at the end of the link. Note that the boundaries between these three addressing levels may be moved if equal addressing range is not required. This field could be also used as two levels instead of three when communicating with a domain without a separate station node.

Source Address: 24 bits

The originating address. The layout and usage of these bits is the same as in the Destination Address field.

Sequence: 16 bits

This is a wraparound count of the bytes passed between the source and destination. It is used to allocate buffer space when packets arrive out of sequence at the destination node. It is adjusted by segmentation routines when a packet is segmented. The segments of a packet may be recognized and space reserved for the segments which are still missing. When the missing segments arrive, they may be inserted in the buffer and the rebuilt packet may be passed along to the destination in the proper sequence.

TRANSMISSION HEADER LAYOUT (Type 1)

The Type 1 Transmission Header is only two bytes long. This format of transmission header should only be used with a station node which will provide the higher level transmission protocol for nodes using Type 1 headers. Many simple end users will want to be able to use the network efficiently but may have insufficient resources to manage the complete network protocol which involves end-to-end flow control and packet reassembly and sequencing. The layout is as follows:

```

0 1
7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Type | Flags | Process Addr. | |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

Type: 4 bits

This is a type 1 Transmission Header and will be indicated by a value of 0001 binary in this field.

Flags: 4 bits

```

+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| NS | Reserved | EF | |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

NS = Network Services

1 - This packet is for network services or from network services

0 - This packet is for a virtual connection

Note that if there is no connection known by the station node, then the packet will be sent to Network Services anyway.

EF = Expedited flow

1 - Expedited data

0 - Normal data

Note that the Type 1 transmission header does not support segmentation.

Process Address: 8 bits

This will identify up to 256 source or destination processes running in the node. (It is unlikely that this many processes will ever be running in a node using type 1 transmission headers.) There is no ambiguity caused by the missing information since the node only receives packets from the station node so if the packet is on an output queue it indicates the source of the data and if it is on the node's input queue then it indicates the destination of the data. The station node also knows the domain address and the link addresses and so can build a type 2 packet from a type 1 packet.

PROCESS HEADER LAYOUT

0	1	2
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5
4	3	2
1	0	7
6	5	4
3	2	1
0	7	6
5	4	3
2	1	0
7	6	5

Flags: 8 bits

7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
+ + + + + + + +
! R R ! F ! E ! P ! D R ! E R ! C H A I N !
+ + + + + + + +

RR = Request/Response

This bit indicates whether or not the data is original or whether it has been sent as a response to a request. The meaning of the other bits are affected by this bit. If the packet is a response to a sequenced request packet then the sequence number of the request is used as the sequence number of the response to identify which packet this is a response to.

F - Formatted

1 indicates that the data in this packet is a network command. There are many different types of network commands and they will be detailed later.

0 indicates that the data in the packet is not a network command but ordinary data.

E - Error

1 = The data field contains error information

1 = The data field contains error information
0 = There is no error information in the data field

U = There is no error information in the data field
This bit has no meaning in a Request - only in a Response

This bit has no meaning in a Request - only in a Response. There are many different types of error responses and they will be detailed later.

P - Pacing

If this bit is on in a Request it means that the receiving process should send back an acknowledgment with this bit on in the response. The requestor will continue to send packets after this pacing bit has been sent but will stop sending and wait after a certain number of additional packets have been sent. This is a mechanism used so that a large number of packets will not be sent into the network when they cannot be delivered out of the network, yet at the same time, the requestor does not have to wait for an acknowledgment of every packet before he sends the next one. It allows packets to be sent quickly without clogging the network. The optimum number of packets to send before and after a pacing request depends on round trip delay time and other performance parameters.

202 EQUIV MODEM

The long awaited VADCG modem is going out to the board manufacturer now and will be available for shipping in about two months. Bob Livingston will be getting half of the 100 boards assembled and tested for us.
Prices will be Can. \$15 for the bare board and \$80 for the completed board.

TERMINAL NODE CONTROLLER RS232 SERIAL KIT

A kit of parts including all IC's, the crystal, sockets and resistors, etc. is being assembled by the VADCG. We are getting enough parts for 100 kits, although we won't be able to afford to keep more than 25 each of 8273 and 8250 on hand. Cost will be \$130 Can. or US\$12.

We will not include the bits necessary for 20 ms. loop as few people seem to use it and the parts should be easy to find. Likewise the parallel part and socket.

Deliveries permitting we will also attempt to provide separate supply of 8250's @ \$15 and 8273's @ \$50 Can.

LIP and TIP Programs on Diskettes or EPROMs

Currently we can supply the LIP and TIP programs, as listed in this newsletter, as follows.

1. On IBM 128-byte/sector soft-sectored 8" diskettes, both programs on one diskette, for \$15.00 including postage.
2. On 2708 EPROMs. The LIP is on 2 EPROMs, as listed. The TIP is on one EPROM, and must be custom-burned. See the selection chart, which must accompany order, on page .
Price, \$10.00 for 1 EPROM, or \$25.00 for all three.

Order form for Diskettes and EPROMs

What speed is the computer, or terminal, to be connected to the TNC?
Circle one: 110, 300, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800, 9600, 19200, 38400 bps
Note: only speeds up to 9600 bps have been tested to date.

What data format does your terminal, or computer, require?
Check one: ☐ 8 data bits, no parity ☐ 7 data bits, even parity
☐ 7 data bits, odd parity ☐ 7 data bits, mark parity
☐ 7 data bits, space parity

Mark parity means setting the eighth bit to a permanent mark, or "1". Space parity means setting the eighth bit to a permanent space, or "0". If not sure, say 8 data bits, no parity.

What call sign do you want in the terminal node? (Up to seven characters.)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Are you connecting your TNC to a terminal? ☐ yes ☐ no
and/or a computer? ☐ yes ☐ no

If you are connecting to a computer, will your computer stop sending if the clear-to-send interface line drops? ☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, will the computer stop immediately, or only at the end of an output line? _____

To:

VADCG, 818 Rondeau St., Coquitlam, B.C., Canada, V3J 5Z3

Enclosed is:

- | | Can. | U.S. | |
|-------|------|------|---|
| ----- | \$10 | \$10 | for TIP EPROM only (see page 21) |
| ----- | 20 | 17 | for LIP EPROMs only |
| ----- | 25 | 22 | for all 3 programmed chips |
| ----- | 15 | 15 | for diskette with TIP and LIP programs. |
| ----- | 32 | 30 | for TNC board |
| ----- | 130 | 112 | for RS232 parts kit |
| ----- | 15 | 15 | for 8250 |
| ----- | 50 | 44 | for 8273 |
| ----- | 15 | 15 | for 202 radio modem card |
| ----- | 80 | 70 | for modem card, assm.+ tested. |
| ----- | 15 | 15 | for newsletter and membership new, renewal. |
| ----- | 10 | 10 | for newsletter only (>100km) new, renewal. |

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ City _____

Prov/State _____ Postal/ZIP code _____

Phone _____ Computer or Terminal _____

(Please do NOT publish my name _____ address _____ phone no. _____)